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AT ELDRIDGE

10 Inmates Escape; 8 Captured

Biggest Maximum Security Break: Hunt Continues

By Staff Correspondent

ELDRIDGE — All but 2 of the 10 maximum security patients who escaped from Sonoma State Home following a fireworks display Friday had been recaptured today.

Security officers at the Sonoma State Home said it was the biggest break of maximum security patients in the history of the Eldridge institution.

Theodore Bravos, business manager of the home, said that the institution had intensified its security program for recovery of patients in the last 3 years so that it now has the best record in this respect of any similar institution in the state.

Mr. Bravos estimated that since October, 1949, about 250 patients have attempted to escape and up to yesterday only 6 were still at large.

Six of the 10 patients who escaped were from Paxton Hall and 4 from Goddard Hall. Both of these buildings are listed as maximum security wards and are surrounded by high fences topped by barbed wire.

Patients in these wards are kept under close guard and confined to the wards except when they are allowed in the yard for exercise periods or for some special occasions such as the field day and July 4 fireworks display.

THE PATIENTS were being returned to their halls about 10:30 p.m. after the fireworks, when the 10 made their escape.

Still at large are Fred Wright and Edward Braska. Both are 18 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall and have blond hair and blue eyes. Fred Wright weighs 142 pounds and Edward Braska 128 pounds.

Three of the group — Albert Gonzales, 16; John Turner, 15, and Lionel Jackson, 17 — were captured by deputies in Vineburg at 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

Jack Earls, 18, and Paul Cabrera, 18, were captured at 9:30 a.m. on the Lakeville Highway to Petaluma. Alfereo Dutra, 15, was captured in the Sonoma area about 2:30 p.m.

Earl Spence, 28, was captured at 7 p.m. in Vineburg, and William Washington, 18, was captured about 8:45 p.m. near Schellville.

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